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ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL,  
LIFT LOCK NO. 7 AND CONTROL GATE  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
East side of DuPage River  
Channahon  
Will County  
Illinois

HAER No. IL-42

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
East side of the DuPage River  
Channahon, Will County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E. 387430 N. 45860010  
Quad: Channahon

Date of Construction: ca. 1845

Designer: William Gooding

Present Owner: State of Illinois

Present Use: Recreational

Significance: Lift Lock No. 7 is one of the fifteen lift-locks designed by William Gooding, chief engineer of Illinois and Michigan Canal. Adjacent to Lock No. 7 is a control gate that allows water into the canal from the DuPage River. This control gate was reconstructed in the 1980s.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historians: David Kelliher and Timothy Whittaker, 1986; Carolyn Brucken, 1992.

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In consultation with the renowned engineer Benjamin Wright, William Gooding, chief engineer of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, designed all of the canal's lift locks in 1837. Gooding chose a standard design of fifteen, deep-cut lift locks, each with a width of 18' and length of 110'. The original timber lock gates contained miter sills, hand-operated pivoting valves that permitted water into the lock chamber, and manually operated balance beams. Most of the work on the canal locks occurred between 1846-48. The lift locks remained in place until the 1930s when, after the I & M had ceased commercial operation, the State of Illinois reconstructed large sections of the canal for use as a recreational park. The Civilian Conservation Corps was extensively involved in the refurbishing of locks, locktenders' houses, aqueducts, and other canal structures.

Lift Lock No. 7 is located in Channahon, Illinois, on the west side of the DuPage River, about 45.5 miles from Bridgeport, the northernmost entrance to the I & M Canal. Lock No. 7 originally had a lift of 3.90 feet. The walls are constructed of ashlar limestone. The wooden lock gates have been removed, although some of the iron hardware attached to the lock walls remains in place. A reinforced-concrete barrier, erected in 1956, stands at the eastern end of the lock. On the western side of the lock stood an office and shelter for the locktender. This building had clapboard walls; a wood-shingle, gable roof; and six-over-six-light, double-hung, sash windows. The structure was demolished in 1910. The control gate, adjacent to Lock No. 7, allows water into the canal from the DuPage River. (Originally the I & M was watered by a feeder canal that extended about one-quarter mile from DuPage river, near Minooka, to the Lock No. 7 vicinity.) This control gate was reconstructed in the 1980s.

**SOURCES:**

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